

Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation**Case No.:** 07-159 – EL- BLN**Project:** Hanthorn Road – G.O. Ethanol 138 kV Line**Applicant:** American Electric Power**Report Date:** March 26, 2007**Automatic Approval Date:** April 2, 2007 (Letter of Notification)**Waiver Requests:** Yes**Inspection Date(s):** March 23, 2007**Staff Assigned:** E. SmithRECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
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PUCO**Summary of Staff Recommendations (see report text for discussion):**Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with ConditionsWaiver: ☒ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☐ Not Applicable

The Applicant has filed a waiver of the 90-day filing requirement. The Greater Ohio Ethanol Facility requests service by September 1, 2007. In order to meet this request, the Applicant requests a waiver of the 90 day requirement. Staff does not object to the Applicant's request for waiver of the 90-day filing requirement.

Summary of Staff Recommended Conditions (see report text for discussion):

1. The Applicant shall inform the Staff seven (7) days prior to the start of construction.
2. The Applicant shall conduct a pre-construction conference prior to the start of any project work, which the Staff shall attend.
3. The Applicant shall minimize the right-of-way clearing width to the extent practicable.
4. The Applicant shall not remove low growing species, dead trees or other vegetation that will not interfere with the construction or operation of the line.
5. Indiana bat habitat trees must be cleared prior to April 15, 2007.
6. The Applicant will coordinate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding protection of the Indiana bat and its habitat.

Projected Docket Closure Date (if automatically approved): September 1, 2009**Investigation Report**

Project Description: This project involves tapping the existing south Kenton-Sterling 138 kV Line and installing approximately 1800 feet of new 138 kV single circuit line to serve the Greater Ohio Ethanol facility distribution substation.

Project: Greater Ohio Ethanol is constructing a distribution station that will supply electricity to the ethanol facility (Lima, Ohio). Greater Ohio Ethanol has requested service to this new distribution station by September 1, 2007. To meet this request, the Applicant proposes to tap the existing south Kenton-

Sterling 138 kV Line (located to the south of Hanthorn Road) and install a new transmission line from the tap to the Greater Ohio Ethanol facility distribution station (located on the north side of Hanthorn Road).

The new transmission line would be supported on two (2) steel tangent poles and one (1) guyed dead-end structure. Construction is projected to begin in early April 2007 and be completed by September 1, 2007. Estimated construction costs are \$589,000.

Site Description: This project is located in Perry Township, Allen County, Ohio. The nearby area consists of low-density residential, agricultural and commercial areas.

Discussion/Comments/Concerns:

Social

- There is a house (owned by Great Ohio Ethanol) located between Hanthorn Road and the Kenton-Sterling kV Line. The proposed transmission line would cross directly over this home. Therefore, in order to construct this project, the house will be demolished.
- The proposed transmission line will be located approximately 60 feet from a home located on the west side of the line (north side of Hanthorn). There is an ornamental pond located at the back of this home. Care should be taken to avoid damage to this pond during tree clearing and line installation.
- The proposed transmission line will be located approximately 116 feet from a home located on the east side of the line (south side of Hanthorn Road).
- The proposed transmission line will be located approximately approximately 200 feet from a home located on the west side of the line (south side of Hanthorn Road).

Tree clearing

There is a woodlot located between Hanthorn Road and the Kenton-Sterling 138 kV Line. A swath of the woodlot trees will be cleared for the installation of the proposed transmission line. These woodlot trees will be cut, pushed to the outside of the right-of-way and left in the woodlot. These downed trees will continue to provide wildlife habitat and aide in soil stability. The woodlot also contains a few dead or dying trees (that will not present a danger to the proposed line). These trees, if possible, should not be cleared.

In addition to the woodlot trees, there is a thin strip of trees located on the north side of Hanthorn Road (to the west of the proposed line). These trees would present a danger to the line and therefore, they would be cleared for the construction of this project.

The total clearing of the woodlot and the strip of trees is approximately 0.7 acres.

Some potential Indiana bat habitat trees will be cleared for construction of the project. All Indiana bat habitat trees will be cleared prior to April 15, 2007 and the Applicant will be coordinating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No other social or environmental impacts are expected to occur as a result of the construction or operation of this project.